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EICB

002/004

Name: Westbank Asbestos
EICB Log #: 96-4011ROUTING:
Ed Skowronski

ATSDR Record of Activity

UID #: TYM4 Date: 8-13-96 Time: 3:00 am _ pm XSite Name: Westbank Asbestos Site City: Marrero Cnty: Jefferson Parish State: LACERCLIS #: _____ Cost Recovery #: 6#LA Region: 6Site Status (1) _ NPL X Non-NPL _ RCRA _ Non-Site specific _ Federal
(2) _ Emergency Response _ Remedial X Removal _ Other

Activities

<input type="checkbox"/> Incoming Call	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Meeting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health Consult	<input type="checkbox"/> Site Visit
<input type="checkbox"/> Outgoing Call	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Meeting	<input type="checkbox"/> Health Referral	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Info Provided
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conference Call	<input type="checkbox"/> Data Review	<input type="checkbox"/> Written Response	<input type="checkbox"/> Training
<input type="checkbox"/> Incoming Mail	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		

Requestor and Affiliation: (2) John Martin, Sr. OSC-EPA Region 6,
Site Response SectionPhone: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Contacts and Affiliation

(1) Tim Walker () _____
(1) Bobby Erlwein, Region 6 Rep. () _____

1=ATSDR	2=EPA	3=Other Fed	4=State Health	5=State Environment
6=Local Health	7=Elected Official	8=Private Co	9=Private Citizen	
10=News Media	11=Citizen Group	12=USCG	13=Natl Respns Cntr	14=Other

Program Areas

<input type="checkbox"/> Health Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Health Studies	<input type="checkbox"/> Tox Info-profile	<input type="checkbox"/> Worker Hlth
<input type="checkbox"/> Petition Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Health Surveillnc	<input type="checkbox"/> Tox Info-Nonprofil	<input type="checkbox"/> Admin
<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Response	<input type="checkbox"/> Disease Registry	<input type="checkbox"/> Subst-Spec Resch	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health Consultation	<input type="checkbox"/> Exposr Registry	<input type="checkbox"/> Health Education	

Narrative Summary:

EPA Region VI requested that ATSDR evaluate and review a Time-Critical Removal Action Memorandum for soils contaminated with asbestos containing materials (ACM) at the Westbank Asbestos Site in Marrero, Louisiana and determine if the proposed actions are protective of public health and comment on whether a time-critical removal action is warranted.

The site consist of six communities determined to be contaminated with ACM located on the opposite bank of the Mississippi River from the City of New Orleans, Louisiana. The ACM is found on residential properties and in public access areas (including day care facilities, schoolyards, parks, etc.). The site includes the Jefferson Parish communities of Bridge City, Westwego, Marrero, Harvey, and Gretna, and the Orleans Parish community of Algiers. The estimated population of the communities included in the site is 183,000.

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The apparent source of the ACM was from a Johns-Manville plant located in Marrero. The plant operated from 1929 to 1975. The plant produced various types of asbestos containing products, chiefly as asphaltic roofing material. An asbestos containing aggregate was produced as a by-product during the manufacturing operations. The aggregate was pulverized in a hammer mill and mixed with filler, usually composed of gypsum, dolomite, or calcite. The asbestos aggregate and filler formed a concrete-like material when mixed with water and therefore was considered by many local residents to be a concrete substitute for construction purposes.

During 1955 to 1965, this ACM was offered to the local residents free-of-charge, and was used for construction of driveways, walkways, and other areas.

In January and February 1996, Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) accompanied by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) personnel, conducted a street by street visual inspection of potential ACM areas. START found that much of the ACM had become friable since their last site assessment in 1990. Currently, 582 properties have been identified that contain deteriorating ACM. These properties include driveways, walkways, and other areas. According to EPA, most of these locations have ACM that is subjected to mechanical disturbances such as wheel loading, walking pressures, recreational activities, mowing, driving, etc. that contribute to the deterioration and release of asbestos fibers.

In March 1996, START collected and analyzed 60 bulk (ACM) samples and 30 soil samples using Polarized Light Microscopy (PLM). The 60 bulk samples averaged 43% asbestos (32% chrysotile, 9% crocidolite, 2% amphiboles) and the 30 soil samples averaged 24% to 30% chrysotile/amphibole by weight. EPA reported that children were playing on driveways composed of friable ACM, another resident was observed mowing his grass with ACM outcroppings in the yard, and vehicles were observed creating dust when passing over areas that contained ACM. These routine activities would increase the friability of the ACM and the likelihood of human exposures.

On August 13, 1996 during a conference call with EPA Region VI, ATSDR concurred with EPA's plan to conduct a Time-Critical Removal for this site. ATSDR believes the removal action is warranted based on the friable condition of the ACM and the resultant concentration of asbestos fibers in the surrounding soils. The asbestos poses a public health threat to residents who may inhale, or to a lesser extent, ingest asbestos fibers. Children are at an increased risk because they are more likely to play in soil and ingest or inhale fibers. Also, there is a concern that early exposure of children to asbestos would result in longer "residence times" for fibers in their lungs and therefore may increase the risk of cancer over a lifetime.

Action Required/Recommendations/Info Provided:

Based on the information provided, ATSDR recommends/concurs the following:

1. Concurs with EPA Region VI that a Time-Critical Removal Action is warranted and necessary at this site to protect public health.
2. If removal actions are not initiated within the next six to eight

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months, interim measures should be taken to stop or reduce human exposure to asbestos contamination.

3. During removal activities, implement dust suppression methods and air monitoring to ensure that exposure of residents to asbestos is minimized.

ATSDR will be available to assist EPA Region VI with further evaluation and/or review of sampling plans, etc., as they become available.

Signature: *Jan McRae* M.S. Date: 8-13-96

Concurrence: *Anthony Walter* M.S. Date: 8-13-96

Enclosures: Yes () No (x); MIS entered: Yes () No ()

cc: EICB File
Ed Skowronski
Bobby Erlwein, Region 6 Representative
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